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March 10, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Caroline Kwan
Remedial Project Manager
Special Projects Branch
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Re: Progress Report No. 56 – February 2016
Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Kwan:

Anchor QEA is submitting this monthly progress report (MPR) for the Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on behalf of the Newtown Creek Group (NCG) Respondents to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). As set forth in Section 42 of said Settlement Agreement, this progress report is divided into the following areas:

1. Actions taken to comply with the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
2. Results of sampling and tests and all other data received by NCG Respondents to the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
3. Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays
4. Work planned for the next 2 months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

1. Actions Taken to Comply with Settlement Agreement during Previous Month

- The draft *Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment* (BERA) was submitted to USEPA on February 1.
- A webinar to discuss nonaqueous phase liquid (NAPL) Category 2/3 delineation was held with USEPA on February 4.
- Responses to comments and action items on the proposed RI/FS schedule, including a detailed technical issues call schedule through the end of February, were submitted to USEPA on February 4.
- Responses to comments on the October 1, 2015 NAPL presentation were submitted to USEPA on February 4.
- An oversight invoice for the period from July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 was provided by USEPA on February 5. Backup information for the oversight invoice was provided by USEPA on February 23.
- Responses to comments on the October 1, 2015 Background presentation were submitted to USEPA on February 5.
- Comments on the proposed RI/FS schedule were provided by USEPA on February 8. Clarifications on these comments, specifically in relation to keeping the hydrodynamic, point sources, groundwater, and sediment transport models included as part of the draft RI Report, were provided on February 11. Additionally, as requested by USEPA, a conceptual FS field program schedule was submitted to USEPA on February 26.
- Responses to comments on the Phase 1 geochronology evaluation were submitted to USEPA on February 9.
- A webinar to discuss Phase 1 sediment total organic carbon reanalysis and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) Aroclor/congener data was held with USEPA on February 11.
- A webinar to discuss comments on Surface Water, Shoreline Erosion, and Groundwater was held with USEPA on February 17.
- Responses to comments on the September 11, 2015 Point Sources presentation were submitted to USEPA on February 18.
- Responses to comments on the October 22, 2015 Air and November 11, 2015 Groundwater presentations were submitted to USEPA on February 19.

- Responses to comments on the *Modeling Approach Memorandum (2)* were submitted to USEPA on February 19.
- A webinar to discuss polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) delineation in native materials and comments on the Sediments presentation was held with USEPA on February 25.
- Responses to comments on the October 22, 2015 Sediments presentation were submitted to USEPA on February 25.
- The *Phase 2 RI Field Program – QAPP/FSAP Deviation Memorandum No. 14*, which documented deviations from the point sources, sediment trap, and ebullition survey programs, was submitted via e-mail to USEPA on February 26.
- A request to defer the discussion of FS-related field program objectives and scopes until mid-2016 was submitted to USEPA on February 26.

2. Results of Sampling and Tests and Other Data Received by NCG Respondents during Previous Month

- Validation and quality control review of the following data were completed, and these datasets are included on the enclosed CD as part of this MPR:
 - Point Sources wet-weather Event 14 (November 19, 2015). Laboratory and validation reports are also included for point sources samples collected at City of New York locations.
 - Continuous sonde salinity and turbidity measurements (July 9, 2015 to October 9, 2015)
 - Paired acoustic backscatter and turbidity dataset from six moored instruments deployed for the following locations and time periods:
 - NC248 (August 5, 2014 to November 2, 2014)
 - NC311 (August 5, 2014 to October 6, 2014)
 - NC312 (August 5, 2014 to November 2, 2014)
 - NC254 (November 5, 2014 to February 2, 2015)
 - NC315 (November 5, 2014 to January 17, 2015)
 - NC317 (November 5, 2014 to February 3, 2015)

3. Encountered and Anticipated Problems and/or Delays and Solutions Developed and Implemented to Address Them

- The NCG has repeatedly requested information from the City of New York that is needed to complete the RI/FS. An updated listing of these requests is provided as an attachment to this MPR.

4. Work Planned for the Next 2 Months with Schedules Relating to the Overall Project Schedule for RI/FS Completion

- Project update meetings are scheduled with USEPA in New York City on March 3 and April 7. Modeling Workshop No. 8 is also scheduled with USEPA on April 7.

If you have any questions regarding this progress report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (201) 571-0912 (e-mail: jquadrini@anchorqea.com).

Sincerely,



Jim Quadrini, P.E., BCEE

Anchor QEA, LLC

Attachments

- CD containing validated Phase 2 data
- An updated New York City Data Request listing

cc: Michael Mintzer, USEPA Region 2 Assistant Regional Counsel
Ian Beilby, NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
W. David Bridgers, Common Counsel for Newtown Creek Group Respondents
Edward Leonard, CDM Smith

New York City Data Request

Item No.	Date Requested	Information Needed	Information Type (Data, Document, Model)	Status as of 3/7/2016	Reason for Request
1	9/10/2012 ¹	Data from monitored/telemetered combined sewer infrastructure that discharges to Newtown Creek, including NCB-015	Data	<p>Not Provided. NYC indicated that they would provide analysis and data from 12 months of data collection (April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015) on August 15, 2015, and that other data from previous years would be provided at that time as well.</p> <p>NYC provided an update on July 10 and as a follow up to that call NCG reiterated their request for the following data:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Raw CSO flow metering data2. Processed (“triangulated”) flow metering data used to re-calibrate the point source model	This information is required to evaluate combined sewer discharges to the creek and support the modeling effort.
5	9/10/2012 ¹	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Available CSO/SSO flow monitoring data, along with data used in the modeling for the Long-term Control Plan (including flow data for BB-026 and any additional locations that discharge to Newtown Creek that are available)b. A status update on NYC CSO flow metering program and a detailed schedule for completion of activities and transfer of data	Data	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Detailed description of method used to generate the “triangulated” data4. Updated geo-neutral point source model <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Detailed description of:<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Re-calibration procedure and resultsii. Changes made to the geo-neutral model as a result of the re-calibration processb. Revised input and output files <p>In December 2015, NYC indicated they would provide this information in mid-January 2016.</p> <p>NYC provided a presentation on March 3, 2016, and indicated they would provide this information the week of March 7.</p>	This information is required for model calibration—flow data will be used in conjunction with other variables to evaluate hydro model performance. Flow data will also be used to inform the sampling effort and approach.

New York City Data Request

Item No.	Date Requested	Information Needed	Information Type (Data, Document, Model)	Status as of 3/7/2016	Reason for Request
21	2/19/2015	<p>Records related to groundwater seepage or withdrawals in the Newtown Creek Watershed associated with New York City infrastructure; categories include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Dewatering of the subway system– Groundwater seepage into CSOs– Other groundwater dewatering <p>1.Infiltration and Inflow Analysis. Bowery Bay Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP). Task 1 of the Flushing Bay Water Quality Facility Plan. Prepared by URS Consultants, Inc. for NYCDEP, Bureau of Water Pollution Control. September 1986.</p> <p>2. Bowery Bay WPCP Interim Report. Task 11.6 of the Flushing Bay Sewer System Evaluation Survey. Prepared by URS Consultants, Inc. for NYCDEP. March 1990.</p> <p>3. Bowery Bay WPCP Final Report. Task 13.5 of the Flushing Bay Sewer System Evaluation Survey. Prepared by URS Consultants, Inc. for NYCDEP, Division of CSO Abatement. September 1992.</p> <p>4. For the 54th and Vernon, Nostrand/Newkirk, Marcy Crosstown, and Pitkin pumping stations and any other pumping stations that are either located or pump water from Brooklyn and Queens subways within 2.5 miles of Newtown Creek please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Location of the pump station- Description of or map showing the portion of the subway that is "drained" by each pump station- Typical long term average pumping rates- Location of discharge to the sewer or surface water <p>5. Depths, dimensions, and elevations of subway tunnels within 2.5 miles of the creek and any geologic information that has been collected along subway lines (for example during construction)</p> <p>6. Depths, dimensions, elevations, and typical operating pressure of the pipe conveying sewage under the East River from Manhattan to the Newtown Creek WWTP, as well as any geologic information that has been collected (for example during construction) along the pipe</p>	Data Document	<p>Partially Provided. NYCDEP provided responses regarding subway and building/utility dewatering and industrial water supply; however, they indicated that they will provide other updates at a later date. NYCDEP also indicated that they were reviewing other reports responsive to the request. NYCDEP most recently indicated information would be available in February 2016, but no information was provided.</p>	This information is required to support the groundwater evaluation.
23	12/22/2015 and 2/8/2015	Information regarding NYCDEP At-risk Ebullition Survey information, including the Field Sampling Plan, a map for each individual survey, and additional information and questions (18 items) requested in February 8, 2016 e-mail from Anchor QEA to USEPA.	Data Document	<p>Partially Provided. NYCDEP provided an SOP for the field work, a combined map of surveys, photographs, tables, and a presentation. Other requested information has not been provided.</p>	USEPA is requesting the additional information to allow Anchor QEA to complete a comparison of its ebullition survey results with the NYCDEP survey results.

Notes:

1 = In some cases, the request has been updated to be more specific or include more recent information that became available since the previous request.

BB = Bowery Bay

CSO = combined sewer overflow

NCB = Newtown Creek Brooklyn

NCG = Newtown Creek Group

NYC = New York City

NYCDEP or DEP = New York City Department of Environmental Protection

SOP = standard operating procedure

SSO = sanitary sewer overflow

USEPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

WPCP = Water Pollution Control Plant

WWTP = wastewater treatment plant